

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

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It is the same with "*Anemonia*" of Risso. Two species are recorded, *Anthea cereus* and *A. Tuedia*. Local names are always objectionable, more especially when the distribution of the species is known to be wide, and when it has already received a name. Would it not have been preferable to have followed Risso, and styled the second species *A. edulis*? By the way, is it not full time for naturalists to reconcile the strange diversity of opinion as to the nervous system of *Actinia*? Somebody must be in error, one set of observers declaring there is little or no trace of a nervous system, and another (including Dr. Grant) asserting that the nervous system is well known and evident. In several popular works on natural history a diagram of the nerves at the base of the *Actinia* is figured, without a note to mention the doubts regarding it. See, for instance, the article "*Actinia*" in the 'Penny Cyclopædia.'

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Cruciferæ	265	49
Viola	32	22
Hypericum (including Elodea)	38	27
Paronychia	8	2
Arenaria	29	13
Stellaria	19	3
Cerastium	10	6
Silene	23	7
Claytonia	17	5
Sida	19	8
Ceanothus	19	5
Vicia	15	5

and other lesser genera in similar proportion. The work it is intended shall be completed in three closely printed 8vo volumes, each of about 550 pages; but as considerable time will necessarily be occupied in the publication of the work, it is intended, for the greater convenience of botanists, to issue the volumes in separate parts as soon as printed. The first volume, therefore, which will comprise the Exogenous Polypetalous plants, will appear in three parts of about 184 pages each; of which the first part is just published; the second is now nearly completed, a considerable portion of the printed sheets having been forwarded to us; and the third will follow as soon as is convenient with its faithful execution.

We also gladly take this opportunity to announce the arrival of the second part of this invaluable work in this country, brought, indeed, by one of the authors himself, Dr. Gray, who is come to visit the collections of American plants in England and upon the Continent, so as to clear up many dubious points in the species and synonyms; a labour in which we know he has been eminently successful, and which will stamp a great additional value on the work in question. The second part, although comprising the proper complement of pages, does not bring us to the conclusion of the *Leguminosæ*, a family of plants in which N. America is eminently rich, particularly in *Astragaleæ*. *Astragalus* alone includes 40 species; *Oxytropis*, 16; *Phaca*, 31: and *Homolobius*, a new genus of Nuttall with the aspect of *Phaca* and the legumes almost of *Vicia*, 10 species. Of *Psoralea* there are 27 species; of *Petalostemum*, 13; of *Trifolium*, 33, of which 12 belong to that beautiful group with involucreted capitula. It gives us pleasure to find Mr. Douglas' Texas plants included in this work.

We flatter ourselves that the 'Flora of North America' will meet with all the encouragement its high merit entitles it to.

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Vol. I. *Rhyncota*.

Under this title Prof. Burmeister has begun a work, which in the field of Entomology, can only be compared with those of Curtis and Percheron-Guerins, and which, while it is not as the former limited to a Fauna, is neither inferior to it in elegance or in the accuracy of its execution; and is to be preferred to the latter (which it appears is discontinued) from the greater care with which the subject is treated, and from the method adopted of placing the nearly allied genera together. The author's previously published observations on this order in the 'Manual of Entomology' may serve as basis to the present work. The first parts contain:—

Lystra, with characters of seven species, illustrated by *L. auricomma* from Mexico, which externally has a great resemblance to *Phenax*, the second genus here described, the analyses of which are subjoined on the plate of the former genus. *Acocephalus* represented by *A. costatus*, Germ. *Bythoscopus* divided into four sub-genera: *Bythoscopus* (*Flatta varia*, F.), *Idiocerus Lewis* (illustrated by *Jassus fulgidus*, F.), *Oniopsis* (by *B. lanio*), and *Pediopsis* (*B. tiliæ*, Germ.). *Eurymela* with five species, of which the most known, *E. fenestrata*, is chosen for the illustration of the genus. ERICHSOHN, *Bericht über Entomologie, Wiegmann's Archiv*. Part V. 1838.

Second Annual Report and Proceedings of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh. Session 1837–8. 8vo. Printed for the Society.

We have had much satisfaction in perusing the Second Annual Report of this Society; it is rapidly advancing in importance; and if the same zeal and union of feeling continue to influence its members, it will in a very short period stand at the head of the Botanical Associations in Britain. Its correspondence and herbarium are already extensive, and the distributive plan which has been adopted in regard to the latter will quickly increase it, whilst that of keeping a paid Assistant-Curator will at once prevent any falling off or confusion amidst the increasing work of the Society.

The Report contains a general notice of the present state of the Society, prepared by the Committee of Management; a digest of the proceedings at the Society's meetings, the greater part of which has appeared from time to time in our pages; a list of office-bearers for the year; of the members divided into classes; contributors to the herbarium, donations to the library, &c.; and is preceded by extracts from a report on the 'Progress and State of Botany in Britain from

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From the General Report we learn that Her Majesty the Queen has been graciously pleased to become patron to the Society, thereby giving a sanction to its conduct and proceedings, which must prove of the utmost consequence. Another important event is the proposal on the part of the Society for a union of their herbarium with that belonging to the University : this has been favourably entertained by the patrons and the senate, and the arrangements for effecting the desired union are said to be nearly completed. The first edition of the Society's Catalogue of British Plants being nearly disposed of, a second is in preparation. A diploma and seal have been completed, and may now be had by members on application to the Treasurer or Secretary. The number of members of different classes belonging to the Society at the date of this report is 199. Specimens from the herbarium have been distributed during the past year to 95 public bodies or members.

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PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

LINNÆAN SOCIETY.

Dec. 4.—Edward Forster, V.P., in the Chair.

Read, "Observations on the Anatomical and Physiological Nature of Ergot in certain Grasses." By E. J. Queckett, Esq., F.L.S.

Having had the opportunity of examining the formation of the ergot in several grasses, the author has endeavoured to trace the cause and origin of this singular formation on them, and particularly on *Elymus sabulosus*.

It was found, that when a grain of the grass was to be replaced by an ergot, it presented before the period of expansion of the flower a singular mildewed appearance. This, when examined microscopically, was seen to consist of filaments, at whose base were myriads of particles of exceedingly diminutive size, forming a complete coating to the young grain, so that no part of its body was visible through it.

From this state the increase of the young ergot, but not of the filaments and particles, was very rapid, for in a short time after, when the ergot began to appear between the paleæ of the flower, its violet

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